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The following information on Hungarian border control in the Sopron (P 48/2 61) area and northeastern Hungary was obtained between November 1949 and March 1950:

1. Border control in the Sopron area:

b. Information on border obstacles:

(1) A double 1.8 to 2-meter high wire fence runs along the border with openings only at official checkpoints for border traffic. The fence is being mended by a special maintenance detail. It is easy to climb over.

(2) In the space between the two fences are mines and signal rockets at about 10-meter intervals. Mines are more dense in border sectors which are likely to be chosen by illegal border crossers. The mines and signal rockets are attached to trip wires, two of which are usually stretched between the fences. Detonation of the mines and discharge of the signal rockets are caused by jerking the trip wires. The best method of crossing the mine belt is to proceed with arms free of sleeves, dangling toward the ground. Trip wires will, if only lightly touched, not cause detonation of the mines. The mines are usually overgrown with vegetation and not visible. Mines on bare ground can easily be spotted as they project for 15 to 20 cm. The mine belt follows the entire border, having gaps only at points where AVO agents are channeled across the border. Detonated mines and discharged signal rockets are being replaced by a special patrol detail available with each border guard battalion. It frequently happened that mines were replaced only three weeks after their detonation.

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Next Review Date: 2008

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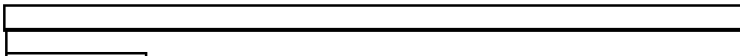



(3) The spacings between the observation towers vary. Only few observation towers are placed within sight of each other. Each tower is occupied by two border guards, one on top and one on the ground. Border sectors which were cleared of vegetation are, in many places, grown over again.

2. Border control at Pacin (K 49/K 79):

Two fugitive merchants who illegally crossed the border at Pacin in March 1950 stated that there were no fences or observation towers along the Hungarian-Czech border. A border guard post of 18 men, responsible for a 20-km border stretch, was stationed in Pacin. The fugitives said that the only danger lay in approaching the border as AVO personnel keep a strict check on all persons traveling to the border area by road and rail. Each traveler must have a plausible reason for going to the border area.

3. Border control in the Satoraljaújhely (K 49/E 50) area:

  
 no Hungarian and Slovak border guards.

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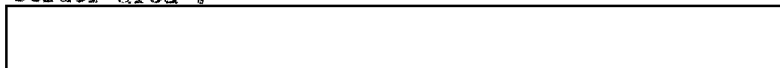
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 Comment:

Although it does not contain any particularly new information on border control measures, the report is forwarded as it gives detailed data on the Sopron border area\*.

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